

ABSTRACT

Phase III data recovery excavations at the Hawthorn site (7NC-E-46) were oriented toward determining the chronology of the prehistoric occupation of the site and understanding the placement of the Hawthorn site within regional settlement models. A total of 1325 square feet (53 5' x 5' squares) of contiguous area was excavated within an undisturbed, buried soil containing approximately 11,000 artifacts. Diagnostic artifacts and soils data indicated an occupation between 1000 B.C. and 750 B.C. Ecofacts recovered from flotation included hickory, chenopodium, and hackberry, indicating a late summer/fall occupation. Three distinct activity areas including a habitation area with a tent structure, a nut/seed processing area, and a butchering/tool refurbishing area were present. The site is characterized as a special class of procurement-related site, a staging/processing site. Groups at the Hawthorn site were probably engaged in the final processing of hunted and gathered resources before they were transported to larger habitation sites in the area.

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